

Presentation on International Agreements

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**Kent Bress
Space Science Division
Office of External Relations
NASA Headquarters**

**Tel: (202) 358-0269
Email: kbress@hq.nasa.gov**

NASA International Cooperation

- Since its inception in 1958, NASA has had a broad program of international cooperation involving over 4000 agreements with over 100 nations and international organizations
- NASA has cooperative projects in every region of the world
- Every NASA Enterprise has international partnerships
- NASA follows foreign policy guidance from the Department of State and the National Security Council

Why International Cooperation?

- The National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 directs NASA to conduct its activities so as to “*contribute materially to...cooperation by the United States with other nations.*”
- Benefits of international Cooperation
 - Pooling of financial resources
 - Access to foreign capabilities or geography
 - Adds unique capability and/or expertise
 - Increases mission flight opportunities
 - Enhances the scientific return
- Promotion of foreign policy interests

Challenges to Cooperation

- Management Complexity
 - Decision-making is more complex
 - Communications difficulties
 - Differing specifications, standards and assumptions
- Technical and Programmatic Risk
 - Interdependence -- the “critical path” issue
 - Interfaces are difficult to manage at a distance; it’s harder to monitor progress and get early warning of problems
- Political Risk
 - Budgetary and bureaucratic uncertainties
 - Potential linkage to political activities or economic problems

How is Cooperation Identified?

- Cooperation can develop through a variety of mechanisms:
 - Established competitive mechanisms (Announcements of Opportunity, NASA Research Announcements)
 - Established consultation mechanisms -- bilateral or multilateral, long-term or short-term focused effort
 - Scientist-to-scientist cooperation
 - Inquiries from a potential partner
 - Top-down direction (from Administration or Administrator)

NASA's Guidelines for International Cooperation

- Project is mutually beneficial, has scientific and technical merit, and meets NASA's programmatic objectives
- Each Partner funds its respective contributions, but contributions need not be equivalent
- Partners are generally government agencies due to the level of investment and legal requirements
- Project structured to establish clearly defined and distinct managerial and technical interfaces to minimize complexity

NASA's Guidelines for International Cooperation

- Project structured to protect against unwarranted technology transfer and take into account industrial competitiveness
- Project demonstrates a specific benefit to NASA (e.g., data, service, contribution to flight mission or operational infrastructure)
- No exchanges of funds
- No joint technology development
- Cooperation documented in a written, specific agreement

Why Do We Need Agreements?

- International Agreements are tools that:
 - clarify responsibilities of the partners
 - confirm commitments
 - document the quid pro quo (benefits) of the cooperation
 - protect investment and interests, such as:
 - technical data rights
 - intellectual property rights
 - allocation of risk -- cross-waiver of liability
 - support import/export of technical data and goods
 - confirm arrangements to meet international obligations, such as:
 - UN Registration Convention
 - establishing “related entities”

Questions?

Office of External Relations
(202) 358-0900